

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: November 29, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:31 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:38 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Angela Mansfield, Chair
Paul Bateman
Ginny Cain
André Carson
Joanne Sanders
Ryan Vaughn

ABSENT

Susie Day

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 453, 2007 - transfers and appropriates \$65,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Marion County Children's Guardian Home (County General Fund) to cover unanticipated increases in the cost of utilities and the food service program
"Do Pass" Vote: 6-0

Community Affairs Committee

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, November 29, 2007. Chair Angela Mansfield called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. with the following members present: Paul Bateman, Ginny Cain, André Carson and Ryan Vaughn. Arriving shortly thereafter was Joanne Sanders. Absent was Susie Day.

PROPOSAL NO. 453, 2007 - transfers and appropriates \$65,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Marion County Children's Guardian Home (County General Fund) to cover unanticipated increases in the cost of utilities and the food service program

Rosie Butler, Director, Marion County Children's Guardian Home, passed out the Guardian Home's newsletter and pointed out their wish list for the children in the home. Chair Mansfield asked if there is a website where the wish list is posted. Ms. Butler answered in the negative.

Bill Peddie, Assistant Director, Marion County Children's Guardian Home, stated that there were some additional funds left over in the 2001 account which had not all been utilized because the Home was in transition. He said that the Home used to have children under the age of two, and the Department of Child Services (DCS) has found a way within the private sector to have those children under the age of two go directly into foster homes, if necessary. Mr. Peddie stated that there are a couple of openings at the Home in anticipation of additional programs in 2008. He said that during this process, the Home has had to privatize the food service program with ARAMARK. He said that the initial cost with ARAMARK was good, but the numbers were based on 2005 and 2006. The numbers have changed because DCS has been doing a great job of getting children placed in foster homes, group homes and with relatives. He said that the utilities were difficult to predict this year and they did not anticipate some of the utilities to fluctuate. Mr. Peddie stated that in the long run, the Home is going to be short about \$25,000, and hopefully, with moving funds around for 2008, they will have rectified most of that difficulty and can maintain the base if the Home does get the additional programming to hire persons.

Councillor Cain stated that she did not realize that the newborn area was not being utilized. Ms. Butler stated that the Home is not seeing as many children under the age of five. They are still seeing some, but not as much as three years ago. She said that only about two or three toddlers are trickling through weekly, which is good, because that means they are going to foster care, relatives or back home sooner.

Councillor Carson asked if the Home has been efficient with the decrease in staff. Ms. Butler answered in the affirmative, stating that the Home has not re-hired because there has not been a need.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Sanders arrived at 5:37 p.m.}

Mr. Peddie stated that the Home has utilized staff members when the need arises in taking care of the nursery. He said that it has entailed an increase in overtime, but that is better than hiring new staff members.

Councillor Cain moved, seconded by Councillor Bateman, to send Proposal No. 453, 2007 to the Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Mansfield, Chair
Community Affairs Committee

AM/law